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United Nations

Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2009

General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth Session
Supplement No. 42

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/83, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006 and 62/54 of 5 December 2007,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 61/98, by which it adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Commission's methods of work;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission include in the agenda of its 2009 substantive session an item entitled "Elements of a draft

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/63/42).

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade", in accordance with resolution 61/67;

8. *Also recommends* that the Disarmament Commission intensify consultations with a view to reaching agreement on the remaining agenda items, in accordance with decision 52/492, before the start of its substantive session of 2009;

9. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2009, namely from 13 April to 1 May, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

II. Organization and work of the 2009 substantive session

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2009 at United Nations Headquarters at its 290th plenary meeting, on 15 January 2009 (see A/CN.10/PV.290). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions related to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its 2009 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137) and in the light of General Assembly resolution 63/83. The Commission took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the chairmanship among the geographic regions. The Commission considered the provisional agenda for the 2009 substantive session and decided to take up the issue of establishment of working groups after the substantive items on the agenda were agreed upon.

3. At its 295th meeting, on 15 April 2009, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda, contained in document A/CN.10/L.62/Rev.1, which read:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/63/27).

5. Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade.

6. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. [This item will be taken up upon the conclusion of the elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade, preferably by 2010 and in any case no later than 2011.]

7. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

8. Other business.

4. At its 296th meeting, on 15 April 2009, the Commission approved its general programme of work for the session (A/CN.10/2009/CRP.1).

5. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 13 April to 1 May 2009. In the course of its session, the Commission held 12 plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.290-301) and 4 informal meetings under the chairmanship of Andrzej Towpik (Poland). Timur Alasaniya, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the Secretary of the Commission, and Ioan Tudor, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, represented the substantive secretariat.

6. During the 2009 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chairman: Andrzej Towpik (Poland)

Vice-Chairpersons: representatives of Azerbaijan, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), South Africa, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Rapporteur: Piet de Klerk (the Netherlands)

7. The Commission also elected Paolo Cuculi of Italy Chairman of Working Group I, on item 4, and Johann Paschalis of South Africa Chairman of Working Group II, on item 5.

8. On 15 and 16 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.295-297). The representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, China, Cuba, Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union), Mexico (on behalf of the Rio Group), India, Indonesia (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Jordan (on behalf of Arab States), Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nigeria (on behalf of African States), Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan and United States of America.

9. At the first meeting (291st plenary), on 13 April, the Commission heard the statement of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Sergio Duarte.

10. In accordance with the decision taken at its 295th meeting, the Disarmament Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4, "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and

non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". Working Group I met under the chairmanship of Paolo Cuculi (Italy) and held six meetings from 22 to 29 April.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5, "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade". Working Group II met under the chairmanship of Johann Paschalis (South Africa) and held nine meetings, from 20 and 30 April.

12. In accordance with the past practice of the Disarmament Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

13. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 63/83, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters.

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

14. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted:

Conference room papers submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II (A/CN.10/2009/WG.II/CRP.1 and Rev.1 and 2).

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

15. At its 301st plenary meeting, on 1 May, the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of those reports, reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

16. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted, as a whole, its report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

17. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 295th meeting, on 15 April 2009, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the 2009 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.62/Rev.1), and decided to allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

2. The Working Group met under the Chairmanship of Paolo Cuculi (Italy), and held six meetings between 22 and 29 April 2009. Sergei Cherniavsky of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly

Affairs and Conference Management, served as the Secretary of the Working Group. Kristin Jenssen of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group held extensive discussions on item 4 of the Disarmament Commission's agenda for the 2009 substantive session.

4. At its 6th meeting, on 29 April 2009, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4.

18. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 295th meeting, on 15 April 2009, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the 2009 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.62/Rev.1), and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5 entitled, "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade".

2. The Working Group, under the chairmanship Johann Paschalis (South Africa), held nine meetings between 20 and 30 April. Christa Giles of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the Secretary of the Working Group, and Ioan Tudor of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 20 April, the Working Group held a general exchange of views on the subject. At its 2nd meeting, on 21 April, the Working Group exchanged views on a non-paper of the Chairman (A/CN.10/2009/WG.II/CRP.1). From its 2nd meeting, on 21 April, the Working Group engaged in substantive discussions and consultations on the Chairman's non-paper. During that period, written and oral proposals were made by delegations. As a result, the Chairman submitted a revision of his non-paper (A/CN.10/2009/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.1), incorporating a compilation of views and proposals expressed by delegations. Subsequently, the Chairman submitted a revised version of his non-paper (A/CN.10/2009/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.2).

4. At its 8th meeting, on 29 April, the Working Group began the consideration of a revised non-paper of the Chairman (A/CN.10/2009/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.2), entitled "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade". Different proposals were made by delegations. The Group decided to continue the consideration of the Chairman's revised non-paper at the next session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 2010.

5. At its 9th meeting, on 30 April, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on the agenda item entitled "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade".

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